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CONT

the packet is determined by searching said quality description table, the packet is stored in an output queue determined by the determined output destination and quality class, and the packet is read out from said output queue in accordance with the quality set for said output queue.

Please cancel claim 2 in its entirety.

A2

3. (Amended) [A] An ATM node apparatus which has a VC set between ATM node apparatuses and configured to transfer a packet over the VC after dividing the packet into cells, characterized by comprising

a route table and a quality description table, wherein an output destination of an incoming packet is determined by searching said route table by using packet header information, which is not included in ATM header information, but included in a start cell of the packet, a quality class of the packet is determined by searching said quality description table, the packet is sent out through a VC determined by the determined output destination and quality class, and a plurality of VCs with different qualities are set for the same output destination.

Page 111, line 21, change the claim number "56." to --57.--.

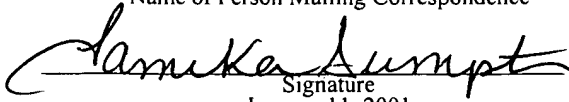
#### REMARKS

Minor amendments have been made to the specification and claims to place the same in better form for U.S. practice. Consideration and allowance of the application are earnestly solicited.

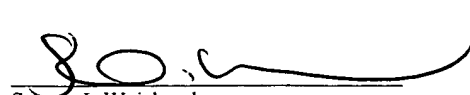
#### EXPRESS MAIL CERTIFICATE

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as Express Mail Post Office to Addressee (mail label EL583736678US) in an envelope addressed to: Asst. Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, on January 11, 2001:

Tamika Sumpter  
Name of Person Mailing Correspondence

  
Signature  
January 11, 2001  
Date of Signature

Respectfully submitted,

  
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